

13 February 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF, WESTERN EUROPE BRANCH

SUBJECT: Comments on SR 16 (Austria)

1. This looks to our unpracticed eye like a neat and competent report on Austria, a country which, we should think, would be glad to be given back to the Indians.
2. It is not, of course, complete: the two most important sections (V and VI) are missing. Hope the authors will undertake to concoct these sections as soon as possible because they will probably require a good deal of time and thought, Austria appearing to be pretty strategic, even if it doesn't contemplate immediate invasion of the US.
3. Stylistically the SR might be brushed up a bit. It contains about every cliche in the Intelligence book, excepting the one about a primarily agricultural country, omitted evidently because Austria isn't. This is probably the trouble with Austria: just make it primarily agricultural, and all will be well—well, pretty well. Also the people orient too much. They are always orienting their economy into an orbit. Since orient really refers to the rising of the sun and since an orbit is, among other things, the path described by a heavenly body, the Austrians are getting too astronomical for words. You might as well try to climb onto the edge of a sphere the way we did in OME 47/1. Or take such a matter as implementing an objective. One doubts that it could be done, but in any case, it sounds a little as if we had got used to words like "implement" and "objective" and

use them whether they fit or not. So we should think that if someone has the time and the inclination, he might go over the paper and try to replace the phrases that are merely routine with others that better fit the particular sentence. This should result in a mild improvement of the paper—at least for the foreseeable future.

4. All in all, though, the undersigned think this is an excellent paper in which, so far as we know anything about it, Austria is done to a turn.

5. One or two points in particular about the paper—the rest are in the margins.

Summary

Present summary should be redrafted, subsequent to inclusion of Sections V and VI to include: Austria strategically regarding US; nutshell political—struggles of government under Occupation; ditto economic; ditto military (one sentence—no army, no potential?); any conclusions that may be drawn—time required to put Austria on feet etc. History and background should be eliminated, as for example, paragraphs 2 and 3 page one.

Political Section

Suggest 1st paragraph page 1 be moved to page 12 (introducing current issues) or somewhere. It's a good sentence, but might as well make the history all history: introduction by this means awkward. Would brief middle paragraph page 2, not because it is too long as such, but because these statements have been made so often and are so well known.

Pages 15-16: probably the trouble with this section is that it needs to be retyped. Either for that or other reasons, it is not altogether

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clear to me. To begin with, would seem this "government" as of now, has no stability beyond what is given it or not given it by AC. Its non-Communist complexion evidently represents the sentiments of the Austrian people; but the USSR is in position to cancel any moves it may make. In other words, what the Government does now is merely shadow-boxing. Question then remains what the Government would or would not do if or when the AC were withdrawn. (Chances being meager that this will happen any time soon, makes subject fairly academic, but probably ought to be considered.) For short range stability, would appear that Government will be about as it is, so long as we can counterbalance the Russians in and around Austria. (Possibly most of or more than this is in the section, largely hidden under swift corrections, but wasn't sure I saw it.)

ESTIMATES GROUP

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